

Observations at Pittwater.—While walking up a steep grassy slope, I flushed a Pheasant-Coucal (*Centropus phasianinus*), which flew along the grass for some distance, alighting in the lower branches of a gum tree, and hopping by a series of jumps to the top. I was struck with the, what I believe is unusual, locality for such a bird. Though the grass was fairly long, there was no sign of any swampy ground within a mile or so. These birds are, I believe, rather rare as far south as Sydney.

I noticed a pair of Sacred Kingfishers (*Halcyon sanctus*) perching on a dead tree, and was surprised to see one dart into the air, capture a fly and return to its perch. I watched the birds for some time, and found them quite adepts at catching flies. I watched them for about twenty minutes, and only once did one miss a fly. They always returned to their perch before eating their victims.

There had been a fair amount of rain during the last few weeks, and the tank, belonging to one of the week-end cottages, was overflowing. The large round hole in the top was uncovered. A Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) perched on the top of the tank, and, after having a drink, fluttered right into the water, where it floated for an instant in the fashion of a Sea-gull. It did this two or three times, finally sitting on the surface of the water and fluttering its wings to splash itself. It did not, however, stay very long doing this, but came out of the water very quickly. I have also noticed these birds picking up their food and running along the sand or mud flats after the tide has receded.—GEO. V. SCAMMELL, "Melrose," Middle Hd. Road, Mosman, 27/8/22.

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Buff-breasted Quail (*Turnix olivii*).—In the latest copy of *The Emu* a long and interesting article with coloured plates of this bird is recorded by A. J. Campbell, F.A.O.U., Melbourne. This bird is quite common in this locality, and I often shoot them when out Quail shooting. Usually found in pairs, and in some cases as many as six may be flushed in one lot by the pointer dogs. These birds frequent high ridgy country, and in sheltered pockets along the creek banks at certain times of year. In size, they are about equal to the ordinary Stubble Quail.—W. H. EDWARDS, R.A.O.U., "Coongoold," Colosseum, N.E. Line, Q.

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Blue Budgerigahs.—The blue-plumaged form of *Melopsittacus undulatus*, apparently is not rare in aviaries in England. Mr. A. Burgess, writing in *Natureland* (vol. i., No. 2), states:—"I find my Blue Budgerigahs very strong; in fact I sold two hens last year to a gentleman who has already twelve birds by these two hens only, and there are others now in the nest. I have twenty adults and eighteen young blues of 1920, so next year my runs will be full."